

THE FLOWERS HE FINDS TO SEND TO HER.

E'ASTER DAY is the great floral festival of the year. For weeks past florists throughout the country have been preparing for it, forcing their rarest blooms to blossom in time for the Springtime's beautiful holiday. Millions of gorgeous roses, lilies and violets have been shipped from the hothouses of Jersey and Westchester County to provide for this year's feast of flowers. Miles of dainty ribbon have been specially woven to knot about these flowers, and thousands of boxes, baskets and jardinières manufactured in readiness for their packing.

Easter Day seems to have gained in importance as a holiday while other festivals have lost much of their popularity apparently. There is more gift giving at Easter nowadays than at Christmas time. The Resurrection day of the year, when Spring leaps radiant from the tomb of Winter, is the time

of all others chosen for the exchange of remembrances between friends in the form of beautiful flowers richly packed and tied with handsome ribbon.

This year the growing plant in handsome jardinière or basket has preference over cut flowers. They have the advantage of lasting longer than the more perishable cut flowers, and remain a growing mark of remembrance. If cared for, they will last for years, giving their beauty and fragrance forth most generously.

The delivery of flowers has become a most important part of their sale. The florist's cart is getting more magnificent every day. One owned by a prominent Broadway dealer is violet in color and is built in imita-

are unusually plentiful this year and show numerous blossoms. The lilies come from the hothouses with the buds carefully packed with cotton and tissue paper. The bulbs are planted about a month before the holiday and are so as to be in full bloom for Easter.

If the blossoms show signs of opening too soon, the plants are placed on their sides, and in this way the blossoms are kept in bud until the proper time. The plants shoot upward with marvellous quickness and are most graceful and artistic, each stalk bending under its white weight.

The Japanese lily is in the market this year and is a gorgeous flower, the petals touched with tawny spots and the perfume heavy and beautiful. The petals of this lily curve slightly, and the stamens are long and tipped with yellow. If you select a lily to send as an Easter gift it is well to have as many buds as blossoms. This will insure a

as if all the lilies are in bloom they days. There are many hand way of jardinières and Easter lily. The basket vases, boxes and jar descriptions, is ex and is shown in all with gold. Some of the mounted on tripods of of violet and gold to ing violet plants are

Last year the full bloom made the Easter mar success that this specialty. The have a number of fragrance. For table decorations silver and Bohemian glass and

One of the table decor

consist of a basket boat filled with these plants in full bloom. The boat will rest upon a mirror lake in the centre of the table.

Acacia will be a popular decoration for luncheons and dinners. The new Boston fern which Siebrecht & Son have introduced will also be a novelty for this purpose. This fern has the long drooping leaf which makes such a graceful garland.

The American Beauty rose never loses its popularity, and this year it will be chosen by many as the Easter flower. Those shown are strong, big blossoms, with plentiful petals of deep red. The stems are strong and rich with foliage. Some of the fancy baskets provided for the packing of these roses are over six feet in length.

The lilacs are beginning to bud. By Easter there will be a few of them in flower. There is no prettier gift than a box of great, feathery, purple and white lilac.

An Easter girl made a great sensation by appearing at a fancy dress ball as Miss Spring in Paris last year. She was a blonde, so she couldn't wear crocuses, and she thought lilies seemed too sacred for a ball, so she wore a white tulle gown, caught up with lilac chains, and she wore a great cluster of the fragrant flowers on her shoulder, like a plume, and she carried a big, dewy cluster of them in her arms—and that girl was the belle of the Eastertide ball. Lilacs make beautiful table decorations for Easter dinners, and they are "spready" that they are comparatively

Carnations, always pretty and plentipially so this Easter, and are large and spicy fragrance redolent of Eastern breezes. There is a new blossom in this variety called the "Helen Kellar," a red and white flower that is magnificently proportioned. The carnation plants in bloom are also on the market.

Jonquils and tulips are fine and plenty this year and are in vogue for table decoration. The white lilac now in market is also a beautiful ornamentation for this purpose.

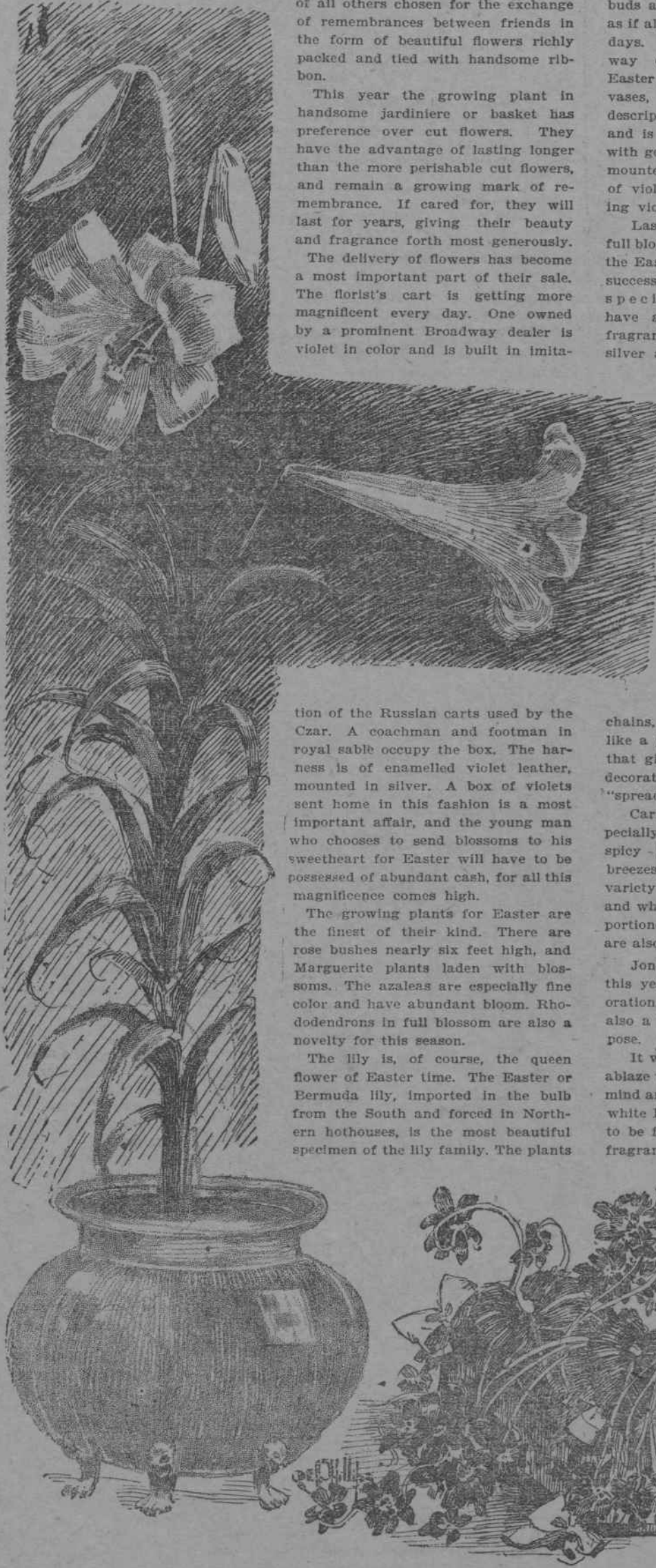
It will be a great flower year, and Easter will be ablaze with blossoms and rich with fragrance. For the mind and the sweetheart of gentle tastes there is the little white English daisies; then there is a pretty little jar of to be found at nearly every florist's. There are also great boxes filled with fragrant pink and white arbutus.

KATE MASTERSON.

tion of the Russian carts used by the Czar. A coachman and footman in royal sable occupy the box. The harness is of enamelled violet leather, mounted in silver. A box of violets sent home in this fashion is a most important affair, and the young man who chooses to send blossoms to his sweetheart for Easter will have to be possessed of abundant cash, for all this magnificence comes high.

The growing plants for Easter are the finest of their kind. There are rose bushes nearly six feet high, and Marguerite plants laden with blossoms. The azaleas are especially fine color and have abundant bloom. Rhododendrons in full blossom are also a novelty for this season.

The lily is, of course, the queen flower of Easter time. The Easter or Bermuda lily, imported in the bulb from the South and forced in Northern hothouses, is the most beautiful specimen of the lily family. The plants



LILIES MUST BE SENT IN POTS, AND THE VIOLETS MUST GROW IN A BASKET.